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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 13 March 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith a statement released by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine on the expansion of the illegal settlements activities of Israel, which constitute an obstacle to the efforts of the envoy of the United States, Mr. Greenblatt (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 March 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: heightened settlement activity is an Israeli attempt to obstruct the visit of the American envoy Jason Greenblatt

The Government of Israel, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, continues to implement its settlement plans, which are aimed at swallowing up more Palestinian land. It has been revealed that the occupiers have taken measures and engaged in wide-scale land levelling activity in preparation for the construction of thousands of new residential units in occupied Jerusalem and its environs, particularly in Sha'fat, Bayt Jala, Waljah and other locations. They have also begun building wide roads for settlers on Palestinian land in order to link West Bank settlements with one another and with Israel itself.

The Ministry condemns in the strongest terms possible the ongoing settlement and Judaization activities being carried out by the occupiers. The primary aim of Netanyahu's extremist settlement policy is to put an end to the two-State solution and to close the door completely on any possibility of establishing a viable, geographically contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine that exists alongside Israel. The Ministry affirms that this escalation in settlement activity is an attempt to pre-empt and obstruct American and international efforts to revive negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, particularly the important forthcoming visit to the region by the American envoy, Jason Greenblatt.

The Ministry calls on the international community to shoulder its legal and political responsibilities, and calls on it to rapidly take political action in order to preserve the chance of achieving peace based on the two-State solution.